NORTON-RADSTOCK URBAN DISTRICT
— COUNCIL —

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDED DEC. 31st, 1938.

To the Chairman and Members of the Norton-Radstock Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my annual report on the sanitary conditions and health of your District for the year ended 31st December, 1938.

SECTION A.

(1) Area (in acres)	3360
(2) Population (1937)	11,314
(3) Number of inhabited houses (1937—3280)	
(4) Rateable Value	£38,969
(5) Sum represented by Penny Rate (1937—£145)	£146

(6) Chief Industries:—
- Coal Mining
- Glove Making
- Wagon Repair Works
- Agriculture
- Paper Bag Making
- Printing

Unemployment.

I have obtained figures from the Midsomer Norton Employment Exchange regarding uuemployment in the District.

1937	Wholly unemployed	199
	Working short time	40
	Total	239
1938	Wholly unemployed	95
	Working short time	20
	Total	115

Vital Statistics.

	Total	M.	F.
Live Births—			
Legitimate	139	69	70
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Still Births—			
Legitimate	4	2	2
Illegitimate	0	0	0

Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated population 12.3 (1937—13.7)

Deaths.

Death Rate per 1000 population (1937,—8.7)	12.3
Death Rate from Puerperal Causes	0
Rate per 1000 total births	0
Puerperal Sepsis	0

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age

All infants per 1000 live births	7.2
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	7.2
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	0

Deaths in infants under 1 year of age

Under 1 week	1
1—4 weeks	0
1—6 months	0
6—12 months	0
Total	1

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	12
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	0
The chief causes of death (all ages) were—	
Heart Disease	14
Other Circulatory Diseases	10
Cancer	12

Causes of Death.

Heart Disease	14
Cancer	12
Pneumonia (all forms)	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage	6
Other Circulatory Diseases	10
Tuberculosis	3
Diabetes	1
Bronchitis	4
Silicosis	2
Acute aud Chronic Nephritis	4
Senility	4
Suicide	0
Other Violence	2
Other Defined Causes	0
Puerperal Sepsis	0
Congenital Death and Premature Birth	1
Liver Disease	3
Other Digestive Diseases	1
Aneurism	0
Septic Ulcer	0
Measles	0
Influenza	1
Status Lymphaticus	1
Septicaemia	1
Other Blood Diseases	1
Anaemia	5

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

(i) Public Health Officers of the Authority—

(a) Sanitary Surveyor

(b) Temporary Medical Officer of Health (Part-time)

(ii) (a) Laboratory Facilities,—No Change.

(b) Ambulance Facilities,—No Change—adequate service.

(c) Nursing in the home,—No Change—adequate service.

(d) Treatment centres and clinics.

Infant and Child Welfare Centres have now been established at Midsomer Norton and Radstock. The attendance has been good.

(e) Hospitals (Public and Voluntary),—No change.

The Joint Isolation Hospital at Paulton serves the whole area for infectious disease and carries out disinfection of bedding, etc.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area—

(1) Water.

The district is supplied from three sources—
(i) The Bottlehead Springs at Downhead.
(ii) Downside and Gurney Slade Springs.
(iii) Chilcompton Spring.

Under agreement the Council also supplies part of the Bathavon Rural District, Frome Rural District, Clutton and Shepton Mallet Rural Districts.

In normal seasons there is a plentiful supply of water in your District, and the whole area has a 24 hour supply.

Quarterly analyses of the water taken from the springs and from a tap at The Hollies have been made. These have been perfectly satisfactory, with the exception of two reports from the Bottlehead Springs which, whilst not showing definite contamination, and no streptococci present, yet showed the presence of a few Bacilli Coli in small numbers.

(2) Drainage and Sewerage.

Sewage extensions have been made during the year to Writhlington and Haydon Areas under the Local Government Act, 1929, and the Radstock Sewage Disposal Works have been enlarged and reconstructed.

Closet Accommodation.

The closet accommodation in the District is approximately 2992 W.Cs. and 92 earth closets, making the total of 3,084. I submitted during the year a report recommending the conversion of the earth closets at the Westfield Infants' School to Water Closets.

Public Cleansing and Household Refuse.

The collection of household refuse has been carried out by mechanical haulage under contract for the major part of the area, and places inaccessible to motor lorry by direct labour. There is one tipping site which is hired.

Street Scavenging.

Systematic scavenging of the main and principle roads is carried out daily, and the remainder of the roads and streets weekly.

(3) Sanitary Inspections of the Area.

During the year 296 visits have been made as follows:—

General Sanitation	93
Housing	151
Infectious Diseases	21
Milk, Meat and Food	31

(4) Shops.

No action has been necessary.

(5) Smoke Abatement.

No action has been necessary.

(6) Swimming Baths and Pools.

The swimming pools at Welton and Radstock used in past years have not been considered satisfactory and have been closed this year. I consider a central swimming bath an urgent necessity, and should be constructed when funds permit.

(7) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Two cases have been dealt with during the year.

(8) Schools.

The sanitary and water supply of the public elementary schools are satisfactory with the exception of the Westfield Infants' School. Radstock Church Schools Infants had to be closed owing to measles from 14th November, 1938 to 25th November, 1938.

SECTION D.

Housing.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year—

(i)	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	43
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	53
(ii)	(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925.	—
	(b) Number of inspection made for the purpose	—
(iii)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	17
(iv)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	18

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ..... None

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs. 19
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices
(a) By owners 19
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners 0

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ..... None
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—
(a) By owners ..... None
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ..... None

(c) Proceedings under section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ..... None
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ..... None

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ..... None
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit None

4. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV. Overcrowding:—

(a) (i) Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year ..... One
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ..... One
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ..... Five
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ..... None
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year None
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ..... None

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(A) Milk Supply.

Number of Producers on the Register 26
Number of Distributors on the Register—
Divided as follows:—
(a) Distributors only 16
(b) Distributors who are also producers 11

(A producer is only included as a Distributor if he definitely makes a business of selling milk by retail to individual customers).
Number of licences given to graded milk producers (by County Council) 7

The quality of the milk produced throughout the area is satisfactory. Pasteurised milk is supplied by one dairyman to the schools.

The County Council undertakes the examination of milk for bacteria, and the samples sent regularly to the County Council during the year have been generally satisfactory.

(B) Meat and Other Foods.

Slaughter Houses—
Licenced 4
Registered 4
Total 8

There were no carcases condemned during the year.

(C) Adulteration.

No action has been taken under the Sale of Drugs Act.

(D) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

The Somerset County Council Laboratories at Taunton carry out any examinations necessary.

(E) Nutrition.

The general standard of nutrition of children and adults is satisfactory and improving. The several cases of malnutrition from differing causes, whilst forbidding complacency, emphasises this general high standard and improving level.

SECTION F.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year:—

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases ad'ted to Hospital	Total deaths
Small Pox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	18	10	0
Diphtheria	3	3	0
Enteric Fever	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0
Pneumonia	4	0	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0	0
Erysipilis	1	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0
Cerebral Spinal Meningitis	0	0	0
Acute Poliomylitis	0	0	0
Encephalitis Lethargica	0	0	0
Relapsing Fever	1	0	0

There was no serious epidemic of any notifiable disease during the year. There were 18 cases of Scarlet Fever as against 13 (1937) and 28 (1936). Some of the cases were more severe in type than in the preceding year. Two of the cases of diphtheria had just previously been residing in a neighbouring area where there were many cases notified at that time. The other case was a contact in the same house as one of these cases.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied by the Council free of charge to any practitioner treating a case in the District.

There has been systematic action in immunisation of school children against diphtheria carried out in the schools, and by local practitioners for children under school age where the parents have wished it done. Judging by previous statistics this promises effectively to curtail the incidence of this serious disease.

Vaccination.

No vaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Small Pox Prevention) Regulations, 1907.

Tuberculosis.

No action has been taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tubeculosis) Regulations 1925., nor under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

New cases and mortality during 1937—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Resp'tory.		Non Res'y.		Respiratory.		Non Res'y	
Years	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
25	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
65 and	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
upwards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2	1	0	1	4	1	0	0

I would like to thank those who have assisted in the preparation of this report.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

(Signed)

A. H. BULLEID (Dr.)

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Annual Report

of the Medical Officer of Health, for the year ended 31st December, 1938.

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